



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of : Martin P. Atkins, et al.
For : ESTER SYNTHESIS
Serial No. : 08/687, 811
Filed : July 26, 1996
Examiner : M. L. Shippen
Art Unit : 1204
Last Office Action : March 5, 1997
Attorney Docket No. : BPE 2 064

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.115

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is in Response to the Official Action dated March 5, 1997. A petition for a one month extension of time is being filed concurrently to this response. Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

1. (Amended) A process for the production of lower aliphatic esters said process comprising reacting a lower olefin with a saturated lower aliphatic monocarboxylic acid in the vapour phase in the presence of a free acid silico-tungstic heteropolyacid catalyst characterised in that an amount of water in the range from 1 - 10 mole % based on the total of the olefin, aliphatic mono-carboxylic acid and water is added to the reaction mixture during the reaction.

4. (Amended) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the heteropolyacid catalyst is supported on a siliceous support

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K. Smith
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